

BUTLER WINS HIS BATTLE

Chairman of Populist National Committee Comes Out on Top.

PAUL VANDERVOORT IS EXCLUDED

Committee Votes to Bar Him from Any Participation—Debate Long and Fierce and Park Faction Routed.

Still chafing over the manner in which Chairman Marion Butler had shut them off the night previous, the middle-of-the-roads were early on hand at Creighton hall when the populist national committee reconvened yesterday morning.

Arkansas—Thomas Fletcher (fusion) and W. S. Morgan (anti-fusion), present in person, and J. H. Boyd of the Cooper (Tex.) People's Cause, holding the proxy of A. W. Files.

Florida—All proxies, A. C. Wickes (anti-fusion) for Frank H. Lytle; Elmer E. Thomas of Nebraska for S. C. Hargreaves and D. W. Hamlin for J. R. Reed.

For Illinois—George W. Wickless, present in person, and L. D. Reynolds of the Chicago Express and Nick Haus of Texas, both anti-fusionists, holding the proxy of Frances R. Cole (whom the committee had recognized in preference of Eugene Smith) and J. D. Chase.

For Iowa—S. B. Crane, the proxy of W. H. Robb; J. E. Anderson and S. B. Crane present in person.

For Louisiana—John O. Yelverton of Nebraska, proxy for Hon. W. Morris Deisher. For Ohio—L. B. Allen, proxy for Hugo Freyer. Not present, J. S. Coxey and D. D. Chidester.

Recommendations for the Future. The report concluded with a number of recommendations, as follows, for governing contests in and settling questions of membership in the future:

First. That hereafter the national committee do not recognize any power of substitution or right of assignment or transfer in a proxy.

Second. That no man can hold and use a proxy of any national committee outside his own state.

Third. That no man can hold a proxy from another state when he has been recognized publicly by the populist authorities of his own state as not in the people's party.

Fourth. That the national chairman or secretary be directed to enter on the list of members of the national committee those whose names are certified by the national secretary by the state chairman and secretary or by the three national committees from that state and no other, and if the state chairman or secretary or by two of the national committees from that state on the rolls.

Fifth. That hereafter we recognize no telegraph proxies.

Lastly, we recommend to the next national convention of our party a change in our rules so that one man can hold and use three proxies from his own state and that no man can use any other proxies than those from his own state.

All the five committees had signed the report. They were Senators William Allen of Nebraska, ex-Chairman A. H. Corbin of Kentucky, ex-Chairman John P. Buchanan of Tennessee, Congressman C. A. Barlow of California and Elitweat Pomeroy of New Jersey, whose name had headed the list of nine which had been attached to the call under which the national committee had met in Omaha.

All forenoon was consumed with a debate over the report, the "middle-of-the-roads" making a test fight over Paul Vandervoort's exclusion as a proxy.

Burkitt Has the Floor. Elitweat Pomeroy, who, as the secretary of the credentials committee, read the report, took a few moments to explain the character of the attack on the committee. The leader of the middle-of-the-road contingent, Colonel Frank Burkitt of Mississippi was watching his opportunity and got to his feet as soon as Mr. Pomeroy finished, and with much flourish of oratory and a great deal of dramatic posing, occupied the floor with a long speech in which he charged the credentials committee with having refused to recognize Paul Vandervoort of Nebraska as being entitled to hold the proxy of M. W. Howard of Alabama. He lauded Vandervoort's military record, said that gentleman was good enough to have been elected, the only male member of the Women's Relief Corps of the United States and honorary president of Clara Barton's Red Cross society he was a good enough populist for Nebraska, and therefore good enough to hold an Alabama proxy in the national committee, and finally branded the middle-of-the-road contingent as a group of traitors to their country. Colonel Burkitt always wears a suit of Confederate gray. He said he "loved the gray, not because he did not love his country's flag, but because he liked the color." Vandervoort's proxy, he declared, he held in his hand, and he asserted that the credentials committee had positively refused to admit Vandervoort, whose claims had been presented once or twice Wednesday, and again with additional testimony just before the national committee assembled, and then moved that Vandervoort's proxy be accepted as an amendment to the credentials report. He first demanded the seating of Vandervoort in the committee, outright, regardless of the report.

Pomeroy Gets Back at Him. Debate followed, in which several uncomely things were said about Hugo Freyer of Ohio and others. Mr. Pomeroy immediately followed Colonel Burkitt. Mr. Pomeroy said he was always interested in the spectacle of a southern man fighting his own doctrine of state rights. Several times Colonel Burkitt attempted to interrupt Mr. Pomeroy, but Chairman Butler cut him off by saying that the gentleman from New Jersey cannot be interrupted unless he permits it; the gentleman from New Jersey refuses to allow himself to be interrupted. Mr. Pomeroy explained how the Vandervoort matter had been presented to the credentials committee and had been withdrawn by the very men who were urging his side of the case.

Senator Allen, who had a seat right in front of the chair, also made an explanation which did not explain, from the middle-of-the-road point of view, and then W. S. Morgan, editor of the Louisville Ky. Buzz Saw, who the anti-fusion candidate for governor of Arkansas, arose, amid the shouts of his side, and came forward to the platform for a two-minute speech, he said, "It was a hot talk he gave and he accused the credentials committee with acting in a very low-down manner. It has the greatest comfort discovery of the age. Allen's Foot-Ease makes light of new shoes. It is a certain cure for sweating, calluses and hot, tired, aching feet. Try it today, sold by all druggists. Write for circular and mail for 25c in stamps. Trial package FREE. Address, Allen S. Otis, Toledo, O., U. S. A."

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was charged with that act. Why was Vandervoort rejected, and yet Hugo Freyer was recognized as a committeeman and a proxy from him accepted.

Schilling Defends Freyer. Several jumped from their chairs at once, but Robert Schilling of Milwaukee was to his feet the quickest in the eyes of Senator Butler, and was accordingly recognized. Mr. Schilling, with some heat, took exception to the statement of Morgan, respecting Freyer, and explained that the reason Freyer had taken the check was to expose Mark Hanna's methods.

"I have been intimate, as a friend, with Mr. Morgan for many years," said Mr. Schilling, with a voice gradually rising to a high pitch, "but if he makes the statement which he does about Mr. Freyer such a statement is an act of iniquity."

Once afterward the Freyer incident was recalled by a. Parker of the Louisville (Ky.) Free Republic, and then Schilling waxed vehement and shouted that the "check had never been cashed." Prof. Vincent of the Nonconformist corroborated Schilling.

Colonel Burkitt obtained the floor again and launched into a long speech in behalf of Vandervoort. Frequent interruptions came from the fusionists. Delegate J. Y. Callahan of Oklahoma, who held J. S. Soule's proxy, forced him to listen to an interjection aimed at Vandervoort's right to hold a proxy from Alabama, seeing that he was not eligible to any position in that state whatever. There was not much point to this query, though, because two-thirds of the proxies in the meeting were held by non-residents.

Punctures Paul's Pretensions. A question from Congressman Charles A. Barlow of California had vastly more effect. Mr. Barlow was determined to get an answer to his question, too, if at all possible. He came up to Colonel Burkitt—Mr. Barlow had a fusionist front seat to the right from the chair—and asked Colonel Burkitt point blank if he would, under the circumstances, have objected to Mark Hanna had he come to Louisiana—John O. Yelverton of Nebraska, proxy for Hon. W. Morris Deisher. For Ohio—L. B. Allen, proxy for Hugo Freyer. Not present, J. S. Coxey and D. D. Chidester.

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the people's party should be kept to itself and deliberated upon privately.

No sooner had Mr. Buchanan finished than several from both sides sprang to their feet. Congressman Barlow demanded recognition. The chair refused to give it, saying he had previously held that only Colonel Burkitt and Mr. Buchanan should be permitted to speak, as the discussion had not been really germane to the question—the credentials committee's report. Then Mr. Barlow moved the previous question to shut off all debate and it carried.

Viva Voce Vote in Doubt. A viva voce vote was taken on the report. Reversing the case of the Vandervoort amendment, the fusion majority loudly shouted aye and the middle-of-the-road minority fiercely yelled "no." Chairman Butler repeated his act of the night previous by making a summary ruling. "Aye" says have it and the report of the committee on credentials has been adopted," he said with positive inflection as his gavel struck the desk. "Division! Division! Mr. Chairman, I rise to a point of order: came the shouts of ex-Congressman L. H. Weller of Iowa. He is of the same state, who had an Alabama proxy, Chairman Milton Park of the Nashville committee and several Texans, N. H. Motesinger of Indiana, P. W. D. Mays of Washington and W. F. Haughwout of Missouri. Weller was permitted to state his point of order. He asked if the adoption of the report would not give the states in which the contests had not been determined. This furnished an occasion to the middle-of-the-roads to raise a clamor for a call of the roll, and at a suggestion from Senator Allen, Chairman Butler ordered Secretary Edgerton to call the roll. Before it was started, Milton Park of Iowa motioned for a recess until 2 p. m. prevailed. There is no minority report.

Keep Up the Fight. Another determined effort was made by the middle-of-the-roads in the afternoon to defeat the report of the credentials committee and the rest of the time was devoted to an endeavor to oust Chairman Butler in an executive session. Both failed and the results left the anti-fusionists in very bad luck.

It was about 3 o'clock before the national committee reassembled. Immediately the middle-of-the-roads made themselves heard, through ex-Congressman L. H. Weller, who was personally interested in the Iowa contest as a member chosen by the straight anti-fusion convention, and his demand for the chair was not a surprise. That the chair had declared the report adopted by a viva voce vote after a division had been called for, and also if the parliamentary effect of the adoption of the report would not be to bar the contestants of the contested states from membership in the national committee. Chairman Butler repeated the ruling he had made at the adjournment for dinner had been taken, to wit: That he had declared the report adopted as Weller said, and that he had yielded to a demand for the calling of the roll, but that no other question was before the committee than the determining of the vote by a roll call and none other come before it until the vote was decided.

George F. Washburn of Massachusetts said the report could be adopted as a whole and then the matter of the contests could be taken up seriatim and disposed of. To this Senator Allen demurred. The report would first be considered as a whole, he argued, before any part of it could be taken up again—it could not be reconsidered in part.

Butler Chokes Them Off. The chair maintained this position of Senator Allen despite the objections of Weller and several other anti-fusionists, and ordered Secretary Edgerton to go ahead with the calling of the roll, permitting, however, upon the objection of Mr. Reed of Iowa the portions of the report pertaining to the contests and its recommendations to be read first.

Tellers Vincent and Parker, who had been made assistant secretaries, kept tab on the vote as fast as the contestants would permit it to be taken, and numerous explanations were insisted upon during the roll call.

Before the vote was announced Weller, who held the proxy of R. R. Prewitt of Mississippi, informed the chair that he wished to change his vote—from his proxy—from "no" to "aye," his objection being in a position to move a reconsideration of the report. Mr. Haughwout of Missouri also asked that his proxy vote—that of Dr. DeWitt Askew of his own state—be also changed from a negative to an affirmative. But anticipating what was the intention of the middle-of-the-roads, W. J. Sanford of Illinois, who held the proxy of Congressman John Bell of Colorado, requested that the chair would recognize him immediately upon the announcement of the vote. The vote resulted in the adoption of the report by an almost two-thirds majority. It stood 64 to 27. This showed the exact strength of the middle-of-the-roads, and the fact that they had no sooner announced the vote and declared the report adopted than both Weller and Danford were on their feet, shouting at the chair for recognition; also Haughwout of Missouri.

Nothing It Down. Danford was recognized. He said he had asked beforehand because he had anticipated what the other side would do. Now he would move a reconsideration of the vote by which the report had been adopted. Weller also demanded recognition. Robert Schilling of Milwaukee grew tired. He managed to get in a few words to the effect that "these people here who have been howling and growling all night over what they said was unfair treatment of them at the hands of the national committee and now they come here and, notwithstanding they have been honestly beaten by a majority of over twenty votes, they propose to bring this entire meeting to suit themselves." Accordingly he moved to table all the motions to reconsider. They were promptly tabled by the customary viva voce vote, this time the fusionists being far more enthusiastic than ever to the point of exultation and the response in the negative from the middle-of-the-roads being very faint, indeed.

The Park crowd had "met the enemy at Phillips" and suffered as badly as Brutus and Cassius. The Butler side had been the Octavian and Antony of this contest.

But the anti-fusionists would still make a noise and several of them flew out of their seats when Senator Butler declared the tabling motion carried. Weller was persistent. Milton Park shouted at the chair that the gentleman from Iowa was asking \$1,000 from Mr. Bryan—the proceeds from the sale of Mr. Bryan's book—the money had been sent to him simultaneously upon the receipt of a telegram from Mr. Bryan informing him it would be sent, but he had had no chance of refusing it and it had never been used for campaign purposes whatever.

Weller Bound to Be Heard. Weller stepped forward amid the laughter, bows and derision and cat-calls of the fusionists, and was about to spring his Iowa contest upon the committee when he was cut off by the chair. Under the ruling the chair had made in maintaining the view of Senator Allen that the report would first have to be reconsidered as a whole before any portion of it could be taken up, Weller's Iowa contest would have to come up entirely independent. He was about to go ahead with it anyway and lay all the evidence before the committee when Chairman Milton Park of the Nashville middle-of-the-road committee requested him to give way for a minute, so that he could say a few words about the efforts being made to bring about harmony. He yielded and Milton Park then, in a brief speech, very much softened in tone and persuasive in style, pleaded for conciliatory tactics and informed everyone that during the recess both the Butler and Park committees had chosen subcommittees on a

conference and he begged that the two subcommittees at once get together in a separate room and agree upon some plan of "burying the hatchet." He would assure every populist present that if "this hatchet" should be buried by, for one, would never dig it up again, and he hoped that a formal burial would take place instead of any further sharpening of the steel.

Chairman Butler thanked Mr. Park for his kind words and begged the conferees would be successful in their efforts at harmony, and it carried.

Iowa Calamity Shut Off. Weller was proceeding again when D. C. Deaver of Nebraska requested of him permission to make an announcement. Mr. Deaver got it and told the convention that free tickets to the Transmississippi Exposition for all the committee's members had been arranged for.

Weller has just got started again, but the confusion was so great and the most of the fusionists were leaving the hall in such an unceremonious manner that a motion to take a recess prevailed to give the conference committee time to get together, patch up the party differences and report some feasible basis of agreement. Lines of policy for the future. This shut off Weller, but he did not seem to get out much, because the attempt to talk against the noise had been very hard work.

The conference committee held a meeting immediately or, rather, resumed the one it had been having in a desultory manner, but making it more to the purpose. The Butler side was represented by Senator W. V. Allen, Joseph R. Buchanan of New Jersey and Congressman James Gunn of Idaho; the Park committee had for its representatives W. S. Morgan of Arkansas, Colonel Frank Burkitt of Mississippi, Milton Park of Iowa and Harry Tracey of Texas. After an hour's deliberation the conferees were ready.

Compromise Suggested. When the national committee came together again Chairman Butler proceeded to the main point at once, asking: "Is the informal conference committee ready to report?" Joseph R. Buchanan responded by saying that it was the unanimous wish of the conference committee that the national committee should go into executive session to consider the recommendations which the conferees had to make, and this was done.

After the doors had been closed and the reporters barred out the conferees reported to each other. Their report amounted to an agreement upon every proposition that the middle-of-the-roads had the nerve to insist upon except the resignation of Senator Marion Butler from the chairmanship of the national committee; that is to say, the conferees agreed upon the broad proposition of having an early adjournment on February 22, and that the populist national committee was not to make any overtures in the direction of fusion, but was to proceed independently in the holding of its convention, whatever might be the desires of the democrats and the silver republicans. Each state, however, was to be given the right to elect its own political interests in the matter of co-operation with any other party.

The question of preventing the national convention or the national committee from allowing any fusion propositions to emanate from it was not discussed. From this Colonel Burkitt had made one of his attacks upon Chairman Butler at the morning session—he had charged up to the senator as a fault the sending out, conjointly with like emanations from the democratic and silver republican parties over the signature of Chairman Butler, of the circulars and the populist circular advising political co-operation, and forced the fusionists to admit that if that had not been the personal act of Senator Butler it had at least been entirely unauthorized by the rank and file of the people's party. That, however, upon the objection of Mr. Pomeroy, the report was not to be published it had been charged up to the account of the national committee.

Almost Anything for Peace. Except the fight upon the chairman this had been the only material point at variance in the conference committee. Senator Allen had been willing to make any kind of a concession, and the populist national committee from emanating further propositions in the direction of fusion, if by so doing it would contribute anything toward mollifying the Texas middle-of-the-roads. This was about all that Senator Allen read from his few pencil notes.

At a glance of the fight, the Park organization committee was being made up upon Senator Butler, personally, and stood prepared for whatever might turn up.

Senator Allen made a speech in favor of the basis of harmony laid down and Colonel Burkitt, who held the proxy of the conference committee, also followed with one full of generalities, in which he intimated about as strongly as he could without being impolite that the salvation of the populist party depended in great measure upon settling the differences at issue and getting out of the way he ought to get out of it.

The defense of Senator Butler was taken up by Senator Allen. He went into a long review of the acts of the committee on the people's party ever since that he had succeeded in winning out. He said that he had been united and that every time a man deserted its standard he jeopardized the success of the populists and this was why he counseled getting together upon some sort of a basis of agreement, but he saw no necessity whatever for the demand for the resignation of Chairman Butler.

That Bryan Message. Senator Allen took occasion to reply to some of the attacks which the middle-of-the-road press had made upon him unmercifully of late. He had been charged with refusing to read a telegram at the St. Louis convention, said to have been sent by W. J. Bryan and in which Mr. Bryan had said he would not run for the presidency unless he had Mr. Sewell as a running mate. Senator Allen told the committee he had never received any such telegram at all. He had heard that ex-Governor Stone of Missouri had received such a telegram, but he, himself, had had no personal knowledge of it. It had been alleged that Mr. Stone had wanted the message read to the convention to force Thomas Watson to retire from the field, by making it appear that Mr. Watson did not have any possible chance of election. So insistent was the demand that he agreed upon by both the populist and democratic parties for both positions on the national ticket. As to this, Senator Allen could not say anything one way or another, because he did not know anything about it.

As to the charge that he had received \$1,000 from Mr. Bryan—the proceeds from the sale of Mr. Bryan's book—the money had been sent to him simultaneously upon the receipt of a telegram from Mr. Bryan informing him it would be sent, but he had had no chance of refusing it and it had never been used for campaign purposes whatever.

He had simply held it subject to the disposition of Mr. Bryan and still continued to so hold it. It would never be used except upon Mr. Bryan's written direction.

Butler Defends Himself. Another talk directed toward the necessity for the resignation of Chairman Butler and Senator Butler took up his own defense. He wanted to tell the gentlemen from Texas and Missouri who had been fighting him that he was "made" by North Carolina material, which would not run under fire, and though they tried to do so for another twenty-four hours they could not wear him out. "He would suffer his right arm to be torn off before he would yield under the circumstances." They might cause him to lose his health, but they could not force him to retire so long as he believed that he was doing his duty by his party and his country. He intimated that he might have considered the advisability of a resignation had it not been for the hard fight the Texans had made upon him and the manner in which he had been treated. He had his own state by men whom he had sought to better in every respect and stood up. His own colleagues on the committee from North Carolina, J. L. Ramsey and Z. T. Garrett, after, upon his advice, they had been retained upon the national committee, had turned over their proxies to two of his opponents in Texas, Messrs. R. A. Cain and R. E. Pettit, and for every proposition opposed to him in the committee the votes of these two Texans had been cast against him. His enemies could not force him to yield by any such tactics, and therefore, no matter how